

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07631 031722Z

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS MOSCOW 7631

FOR BEWT/USSR AND TDAD

VIENNA FOR EWTC

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BTRA, UR

SUBJ: SHORTAGE OF HOTEL SPACE IN MOSCOW FOR BUSINESS VISITORS

1. A NUMBER OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN HAVE RECENTLY ARRIVED IN MOSCOW WITHOUT CONFIRMED HOTEL RESERVATIONS. SOME HAVE BEEN REFUSED ADMISSION TO USSR AND WERE OBLIGED TO DEPART ON THE NEXT FLIGHT. THOSE ADMITTED HAVE USUALLY RECEIVED ROOMS IN SUBSTANDARD HOTELS AFTER CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY AND IN SEVERAL CASES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY ACCOMMODATIONS WHATSOEVER.

2. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT USDOC/BEWT CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT BUSINESSMEN SHOULD NOT COME TO THE SOVIET UNION WITHOUT CONFIRMED HOTEL RESERVATIONS THROUGH INTOURIST. AS BEWT AWARE, AN INVITATION FROM A SOVIET ORGANIZATION AND A VISA ARE NO GUARANTEE OF ACCOMMODATIONS. IN SOME CASES, BUSINESSMEN HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT SOVIET HOST ORGANIZATION (USUALLY AN FTO) WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. ALTHOUGH FTO'S GENERALLY COME THROUGH, RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT BUSINESSMEN WHO FOLLOW THIS ROUTE ARE OFTEN PLACED IN THIRD-CLASS HOTELS SUCH AS YAROSLAVSKAYA, URAL, ETC. PARTICULARLY DURING SUMMER MONTHS, WE WOULD ADVISE THAT BUSINESSMEN FOLLOW INTOURIST ROUTE WHICH, WHILE MORE EXPENSIVE, HAS ADVANTAGE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07631 031722Z

OF GUARANTEEING AT LEAST ACCEPTABLE ACCOMMODATIONS. IF

INTOURIST INDICATES THAT NO ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE, BUSINESSMEN
SHOULD POSTPONE VISIT AND NOT COME TO MOSCOW ON ASSUMPTION
THAT SOMETHING CAN BE ARRANGED ON THE SPOT. IT GENERALLY
CAN NOT BE.
STOESSEL

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